

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CTME-00 L-03 TRSE-00

FMC-02 OES-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DOT-00 /042 W

-----019353 050949Z /10

R 050845Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9943

UNCLAS MONROVIA 4829

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, LI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

REFS: (A) STATE 155899 (B) 77 MONROVIA 8143 (C) STATE 125300

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL A, FOLLOWING ARE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR
PROJECTS WHICH MAY DEVELOP DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS:

A. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, STUDY NOW UNDER WAY FOR POSSIBLE
EXPANSION OF FREEPORT OF MONROVIA. WEST GERMAN FIRM RHINE &
RUHR PERFORMING STUDY WHICH IS PROJECTED FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT
NOVEMBER 1978 AND SHOULD INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.
FORMER DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY, EDWARD WESLEY, HAS
SPECULATED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS WILL INCLUDE STRENGTHENING AND
IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION OF AT LEAST THREE
NEW BERTHS, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO SERVE
CONTAINER CARGO.

B. PLANS FOR GUINEA'S MEFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT PROCEEDING
WELL (REFTEL C). IRON ORE TO BE SHIPPED TO LIBERIA'S PORT OF
BUCHANAN FOR EXPORT OVER LAMCO RAILROAD. IF PROJECT AGREEMENT
REACHED, ORE TRANSPORTATION WILL REQUIRE EXTENSION OF EXISTING
LAMCO RAIL FROM NIMBA TO MEFERGUI, NEW ROLLING STOCK TO CARRY THE
ORE, ADDITIONAL RAILROAD SIDINGS, AND EXPANSION OF RAIL TERMINAL
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AND PORT FACILITIES AT BUCHANAN. LAMCO WILL CONTINUE TO BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATION OF RAILROAD.

C. INTEREST CONTINUES IN WOLOGISI IRON ORE PROJECT AMONG MEMBERS
CONSORTIUM HEADED BY JAPAN'S KAWASAKI STEEL. CONSORTIUM EXPECTED
TO MAKE DECISION WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT BY OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER 1979. SHOULD PROJECT PROCEED, SLURRY PIPELINE WILL BE CON-

STRUCTURED TO MOVE ORE FROM WOLOGISI TO ROBERTSPORT. CONSORTIUM
SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR FINANCING PORTIONS
OF POROJECT'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

D. LIBERIA MINING COMPANY (LMC) WHICH CEASED MINING OPERATIONS
IN MARCH 1977 HAS CONTINUING INTEREST IN DEVELOPING BIE MOUNTAIN
IRON ORE DEPOSITIS. AGREEMENT SIGNED RECENTLY BY GOVERNMENT AND
LMC RELATING PRIMARILY TO DISPOSITION OF LMC ASSETS INCLUDES
PLEDGE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TOWARD NEGOTIATION OF BIE MOUNTAIN
CONCESSION. SHOULD PROJECT PROCEED, NEW RAIL SPUR OF APPROXIMATELY
TWELVE MILES WILL BE BUILT TO LINK BIE MOUNTAIN WITH EXISTING LMC
RAILROAD. OLD LMC RAILROAD WILL REQUIRE COMPLETE RENOVATION.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONROV04829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780275-0800
Format: TEL
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780795/aaaadcbq.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b0bfc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 155899, 77 MONROVIA 8143, 78 STATE 125300
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2115921
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS: TRANSPORTATION SECTOR
TAGS: BENC, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b0bfc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014